

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CDF Declares Fire Season in San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside and San Luis Obispo Counties

Sacramento - Four units of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) which include San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside and San Luis Obispo Counties will declare Fire Season on Monday, May 26, 2003. The remainder of the Southern Region (from approximately Sacramento south) is expected to declare fire season on Monday, June 2. The rest of the state is expected to follow in the next few weeks.

"Fire Season" for CDF is simply a state of readiness. Various management decisions are made by the unit chief in response to his/her own local conditions, such as the hiring of seasonal firefighters, staffing facilities 24 hours per day, increasing dispatch levels, or suspending burn permits.

The late spring rains brought an abundant grass crop in many places in the state which will dry and become ready to burn in the next few weeks. A devastating bark beetle infestation has killed thousands of trees in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties which prompted the Governor to declare a state of emergency this spring. Those standing dead trees represent an extraordinary wildfire threat. Emergency crews have been removing as many of those trees as possible before wildfire activity begins.

This year's theme "Defensible Space is Your Responsibility" reminds homeowners to do their 30 - foot clearance around their homes and other fire prevention measures that will help a home survive a wildfire. For more tips on living safety in California's wildlands this summer, go to the CDF website at www.fire.ca.gov

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